



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548

April 7, 2011

Humboldt County
Board of Supervisors
825 Fifth St.
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Re: Conceptual Plan for Yurok Village O pyuue-wey and Implementation

Dear Board of Supervisors;

The Yurok Tribe would like to thank you for your support of the *Conceptual Plan, Big Lagoon County Park Enhancement Project*. The Tribe is encouraged by your support of the improvement project for O pyuue-wey Village (Big Lagoon).

We are also supportive of the County's Public Works staff that has collaborated on developing the Conceptual Plan. It took many hours to develop the plan, attend meetings with tribal representatives, lineal descendants of the village and adjacent property owners. We recognize the commitment of your staff and appreciate their time and effort.

It is our understanding that the County Public Works staff has submitted a proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy for funding to support the next steps in improving village site protection and enhancement of Park services at Big Lagoon. We offer our support of this funding application and encourage ongoing dialogue with our tribal members, village descendants, tribal staff and adjacent land owners.

As we move forward with seeking funding for conceptual plan design work, we respectfully seek your approval to have your staff take any additional steps internally that will further the effort to protect the village site. As an example, one of the elements in the Conceptual Plan proposes road conversion and road decommissioning. We feel this portion of the plan can be implemented now while continuing to seek funding for other conceptual plan elements. Tribal lineal descendants of the village and the Tribal Council strongly support the road closure of B Street and the road spur on the west side of the Park area at Big Lagoon. The development of the B Street road years ago and the on-going use of B Street and the road spur on the west side of the Park area is considered desecration of the Yurok village.

There is a lot of work to be done at Big Lagoon and we realize the difficulties each of our governments face on a day-to-day basis. However, site protection is fundamentally a stewardship responsibility regardless of finances. Our goal is to collaborate and offer support to the Board of Supervisors and we remain committed to the effort to protect the Yurok village of O pyuue-wey.

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Rourke, Chairperson
Yurok Tribal Council

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April 23, 2011
Douglas H. Bosco
Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to you regarding the protection of cultural resources at Big Lagoon in my capacity as Secretary of the Coalition to Protect Yurok Cultural Legacies at O-pyuweg (Big Lagoon) and as a cabin owner in the Big Lagoon Park Company. I'm also an historian whose book on the history of the looting of native gravesites (Grave Matters: Excavating California's Buried Past) will be published by Heyday later this year.

I encourage the board of the Coastal Conservancy to approve the staff recommendation for "Big Lagoon Access Enhancement" (11-027-01). Our Coalition is the result of a commitment by various stakeholders (state, county, tribes, Yurok descendants, private property owners, and professional consultants) to build a working and cooperative relationship in the interests of all people who want to preserve Big Lagoon's important cultural legacies and make this extraordinary place accessible to all visitors.

The support of the Coastal Conservancy will help us to realize our vision and demonstrate that disparate groups can work together for the good of all.

Sincerely,


Tony Platt

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